

were people in the past such as Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman, and Dr. Vivien Thomas who laid the paths for all Americans. The hard work, sacrifices and hardships of these role models permitted the accomplishments of a new generation: Tiger Woods, Senator BARACK OBAMA, and Dr. Benjamin Carson.

Mr. Speaker, with all of the significant contributions African-Americans have accomplished throughout history, it is important that we recognize those achievements. Let's make sure that all Americans celebrate and understand the principles, achievements and ideals of African-Americans; after all, African American history is American history.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE MURPHY, PILOT AND CO-FOUNDER OF NORTH LAS VEGAS AIRPORT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Florence Murphy who died Monday January 22, at the age of 94. I recognize Florence for her accomplishments in aviation and business, and for paving the way for other women as one of Nevada's first female pilots and the first woman to be vice president of an airline company.

Florence Murphy attended the University of Nevada, Reno, for 2 years before meeting her husband, John Murphy. He worked for the State Highway Department and she was a legal secretary when they first got the chance to fly in 1936. Two years later they each had their pilot's licenses. Murphy earned her flight instructor's license in 1941, and 3 years later she became the first woman in Nevada to earn a commercial pilot's license.

She was not always welcomed in the male-dominated field of commercial aviation, especially when she took the controls of an airliner. At times, she had to board the plane before the passengers so they could not see that a woman was flying the plane.

In 1941, Florence Murphy, her husband and their friend Bob Barrett built Sky Haven Airport, which is now North Las Vegas Airport. The airport opened on December 7, 1941. The festivities came to an abrupt end when an unscheduled military plane landed and shut down the airport with the announcement that Pearl Harbor had just been bombed. Florence's husband and Barrett then went to Arizona as civilian flight instructors. Florence stayed behind to keep the Sky Haven running during World War II.

After the war, Florence met Ed Converse, a Navy veteran who had started Bonanza Airlines. She joined the company and eventually became vice president, the first woman to hold such a position with an airline. She stayed with the company until 1958, when she started a real estate company with another friend, Larry McNeil. She remained active as a licensed pilot until the age of 82 and as a real estate executive until 93.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I have the opportunity to honor the memory of Florence Murphy, and her achievements, in front of my colleagues of the house.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK CUTRONA

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Frank Cutrona, a resident of the Ninth District of New Jersey and the San Ciro Society's Man of the Year for 2006.

The San Ciro Society, located in Garfield, NJ, is an organization comprised of New Jerseyans of Italian-American descent that makes contributions to many worthy charitable causes each year. Locally, it provides students with scholarships to continue their education. On the international level, the society has sponsored foster children in Africa.

Frank Cutrona was born in Marineo, Italy on February 18, 1956. At the age of 13, his family moved to America to realize the American dream and settled in Garfield, NJ. Frank grew up in Garfield and worked as a truck driver for Dorwin Manufacturing, located in Elmwood Park, NJ, for 26 years. He now lives in Carlstadt with his beautiful wife, Rosa, where they run their own deli and where Frank works part-time for the Carlstadt Board of Education. The couple has two wonderful children, Joseph and Christina. Frank has been a devoted member of the San Ciro Society for 15 years and has served as its secretary of finance for 7 years.

Today, I would like to recognize Frank Cutrona's dedication to the San Ciro Society and send the Garfield, NJ's San Ciro Societa Religiosa my best wishes for their upcoming 97th annual Dinner Dance. Viva San Ciro.

HONORING BARBARA SNOPEK, PRINCIPAL OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Snopek, Principal of Saint Francis Xavier in La Grange, Illinois and recipient of the 2005 National Distinguished Principal Award.

The National Distinguished Principals Program was established in 1984 as an annual event to honor exemplary elementary school principals who set the pace, character, and quality of the education children receive during their early school years. One principal is chosen from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and this year Ms. Barbara Snopek has been selected as a National Distinguished Principal.

Before arriving at St. Francis in 1989, Snopek served as principal at St. Genevieve in Chicago and St. Suzanna in Harvey, Illinois. In her first year at St. Francis she worked closely with the staff to create and implement new curricula for the school. Since Ms. Snopek began her work at St. Francis, enrollment in the school has increased greatly and the majority of the students are testing above the 75th percentile in all academic areas on standardized tests.

Aside from initiated programs that benefit students, Ms. Snopek is also credited with an

excellent ability to recognize the talents of her teachers. She helps develop staff members by providing them with varied opportunities for professional growth, including pursuing advanced degrees. Teachers and administration alike recognize Ms. Snopek as one who merges her responsibilities as a spiritual and educational leader to the benefit of her students and staff.

It is my honor to recognize Ms. Barbara Snopek who serves as an example of one of the best in PreK-8 school leadership and helps to foster a greater understanding of the principal's key role in meeting the challenging responsibility of educating children.

THE LEGACY OF FAYARD NICHOLAS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize legendary tap dancer Fayard Nicholas who died on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at the age of 91 and to enter into the RECORD a statement remembering Nicholas prepared by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Nicholas was the elder half of an amazing tap dance legend—The Nicholas Brothers. Together the show-stopping duo influenced generations of dancers with their wildly creative tap routines, which included slides across the floor and signature no-hands leg splits.

Legends in their own time and ours, Fayard and Harold Nicholas are best known for their unforgettable appearances in more than 30 Hollywood musicals in the 1930s and '40s. They were talented singers and actors as well, but Jim Crow segregationist customs kept them from having speaking parts. Their artistry, choreographic genius, and unique style—a smooth mix of tap, jazz, ballet and acrobatic moves—have astonished vaudeville, theatre, film and television audiences all over the world. Their work influenced dancers from Gene Kelly to Fred Astaire to Debbie Allen, Gregory Hines to Savion Glover. Russian ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov once called the Nicholas Brothers "the most amazing dancers I have ever seen in my life—ever."

Born in Mobile, the brothers learned to dance while watching their musician parents who played in their own band at the old Standard Theater—their mother at the piano and father on drums. Fayard was 18 and Harold was just 11 when they became the featured act at New York's Cotton Club in 1932. They then appeared on Broadway with "The Ziegfield Follies of 1936" and later Hollywood appearing in such great hits as "The Pirate" (1948) with Gene Kelly and Stormy Weather (1943) with Fred Astaire.

In 1981, the Brothers were honored with a retrospective of their work in films at the Academy Awards. Fayard received a Tony Award for his choreography in the Tony Award winning Broadway show "Black and Blue" in 1989. Two years later, the brothers received a Kennedy Center Honor. Their legacy has also been remembered with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and induction into the Apollo Theater Hall of Fame. Even after Harold passed away in 2000 due to heart failure,